

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NRC-07 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 EUR-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

IO-14 L-03 NASA-02 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02

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P 111609Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9524

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT: CCD: CLOSING STATEMENT MADE BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, MAY 11, 1978

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS MADE BY U.S. REP, AMBASSADOR FISHER, AT THE FINAL PLENARY MEETING OF THE 1978 SPRING SESSION OF CCD, MAY 11.

BEGIN TEXT:

AS THE 1978 SPRING SESSION OF THE CCD COMES TO A CLOSE, THERE SEEMS TO BE A SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE COMMITTEE IS UNABLE TO REPORT CONCRETE RESULTS ON THE PRIORITY TASKS BEFORE IT. I SHARE THAT DISAPPOINTMENT. MY DELEGATION HAD HOPED THAT EITHER A TRIPARTITE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN AGREEMENT OR A JOINT INITIATIVE ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS, OR BOTH, MIGHT BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE DURING THIS SESSION. HOWEVER,

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IT HAS TAKEN MORE TIME THAN WE ANTICIPATED TO DEVELOP THE FRAMEWORK FOR AGREEMENT ON THESE EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND TECHNICAL ISSUES. OUR EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE ON BOTH OF THESE ISSUES, WITH OUR TWO OTHER NEGOTIATING PARTNERS ON THE CTB, AND BILATERALLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REPORT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ON BOTH CASES, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE

AT THIS TIME TO PREDICT WITH ACCURACY WHEN EITHER
WILL BE READY FOR PRESENTATION TO THE CCD.

TURNING BRIEFLY TO ANOTHER ISSUE WHICH IS CURRENTLY
THE SUBJECT OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, THE UNITED STATES
CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT A COMPREHENSIVE PROHIBITION OF
RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WOULD BE A MEANINGFUL AND LOGICAL
DISARMAMENT MEASURE. THIS WOULD CLOSE OFF A POTENTIALLY
DANGEROUS, ALTHOUGH YET UNTRIED, CATEGORY OF WEAPONS
BASED ON THE RADIATION FROM RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, IN THE
ABSENCE OF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. SUCH RADIOLOGICAL WEAP-
ONS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
SINCE 1948. THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE
RECENTLY CONCLUDED ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A
POSSIBLE JOINT INITIATIVE ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND WE
EXPECT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS ISSUE SOON. I AM
PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE CLOSE TO FULL
AGREEMENT ON A POSSIBLE JOINT INITIATIVE WHICH COULD
PERMIT US TO PROCEED TO MULTILATERAL WORK ON A RADIOLOGI-
CAL WEAPONS CONVENTION IN THE CCD AT AN EARLY DATE. IN
THIS REGARD I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES
SHARES THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MANY MEMBERS OF THE COM-
MITTEE THAT WORK ON A POSSIBLE RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS
CONVENTION SHOULD IN NO WAY INTERFERE WITH WORK ON OUR
OTHER IMPORTANT TASKS.

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IN ADDITION TO OUR CONSIDERATION OF ARMS CONTROL
AND DISARMAMENT MEASURES TO COMBAT THE SPREAD OF
EXISTING WEAPONS AND WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, THIS COMMITTEE
HAS ALSO BEGUN, IN RECENT YEARS, TO FOCUS SOME OF ITS
ATTENTION ON PREVENTIVE ARMS CONTROL. I REFER, OF COURSE,
IN THIS CONTEXT, TO OUR DISCUSSIONS ON THE QUESTION
OF NEW TYPES AND NEW SYSTEMS OF WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION.

A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THIS QUESTION
HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD, AMONG THEM THE CONCLUSION OF AN
OMNIBUS TREATY COVERING ALL NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF
MASS DESTRUCTION IN GENERAL. THE UNITED STATES HAS
STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT WE BELIEVE THE
MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO PRECLUDE THE THREAT OF
POTENTIAL NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IS BY
NEGOTIATING INDIVIDUAL AGREEMENTS ON SPECIFIC NEW TYPES
OF SUCH WEAPONS AS THEY ARE IDENTIFIED.

IF WE DEAL IN A LOOSE, EVEN VAGUE MANNER WITH
PRINCIPLES NOT CURRENTLY UNDERSTOOD OR RELATIONSHIPS
AMONG KNOWN PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN CONCEIVED,

WE WOULD ULTIMATELY DISCOVER, I FEAR, THAT WE MERELY
CREATE THE ILLUSION OF HAVING DEALT WITH THE POTENTIAL
PROBLEM OF NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. FURTHERMORE,
IF SUCH AN OMNIBUS TREATY WERE TO BE GIVEN THE
VERIFICATION PROCEDURES NECESSARY TO MAKE IT MORE THAN AN
ILLUSION, WE BELIEVE IT COULD THREATEN TO OBSTRUCT
SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS WHERE IT WOULD NEITHER
BE NECESSARY NOR ADVISABLE.

IN OUR VIEW, THE OMNIBUS TREATY APPROACH WOULD
INEVITABLY LEAD TO CONTINUOUS HAGGLING OVER THE DESIGNA-

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TION OF NEW WEAPONS AS NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.
WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN SOME DELEGATIONS ATTEMPT TO DISTORT
THE CONCEPT OF NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION DURING
THIS SESSION, IN PARTICULAR WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN NU-
CLEAR WEAPONS. FOR THESE REASONS, THE UNITED STATES HAS
CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED APPROACHING THIS PROBLEM BY NEGOTIA-
TING A GENERAL COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT.

THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE
WAY OF DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE IS FOR THE CCD TO KEEP
IT UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW. IN OUR VIEW, THE MOST
EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE MEANS OF CONDUCTING THIS
REVIEW ARE THE CCD'S INFORMAL MEETINGS ON THE SUBJECT.

WE CANNOT, THEREFORE, ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL RECENTLY MADE BY THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATE OF THE SOVIET UNION TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INITIAL LIST OF TYPES OF SUCH WEAPONS TO BE PROHIBITED UNDER A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT.

TURNING TO ANOTHER SUBJECT A FEW DELEGATIONS THIS SESSION HAVE CALLED FOR ACTIVE CCD CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT TO PREVENT AN ARMS RACE ON THE SEABED. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY HAS PROVEN TO BE AN EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL MEASURE. WE CURRENTLY SEE NO INDICATION OF AN ARMS RACE ON THE SEABED AND LITTLE PROSPECT OF ONE IN THE FUTURE.

IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY EVIDENCE OF SUCH AN ARMS RACE, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT ACTIVELY PURSUE FURTHER MEASURES IN THIS AREA AT THE PRESENT TIME. HOWEVER, IN OUR VIEW, THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER CAREFUL REVIEW TO ENSURE THAT NO ARMS RACE ON THE SEABED OCCURS.

I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS AND ELABORATE A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF DISARMAMENT. THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT THE CCD ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ELABORATING SUCH A PROGRAM AND MY DELEGATION CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THIS COMMITTEE POSSESSES THE NECESSARY SKILL AND EXPERIENCE, AND IS THEREFORE THE MOST APPROPRIATE FORUM, FOR EFFECTIVELY DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE DISARMAMENT PROGRAM. I WOULD HOPE THAT WHEN WE RETURN HERE THIS SUMMER, AFTER THE UN SPECIAL SESSION DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT, OUR WORK ON THE PROGRAM COULD BE PURSUED MORE ACTIVELY, REFLECTING NOT ONLY THE CONSIDERATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE BUT ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE OUTCOME OF THE SPECIAL SESSION.

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I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THE DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE THE MANDATE OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF SEISMIC EXPERTS. WHILE THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE PREFERRED FOR THE GROUP TO HAVE BEEN MANDATED

TO CARRY OUT MORE FULLY THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE GROUP'S FINAL REPORT REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF AN EXPERIMENTAL EXERCISE, WE BELIEVE THE PLANNING PHASE THAT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED WILL BE A USEFUL FIRST STEP. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF STATES THAT ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE CCD HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP, MAKING A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION. THE UNITED STATES HOPES THAT THESE STATES WILL CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AS THE GROUP CONTINUES ITS WORK.

PERHAPS THE ISSUE UPPERMOST IN OUR MINDS AS WE PREPARE TO ADJOURN TO NEW YORK AND THE UN SPECIAL SESSION DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT IS THE ISSUE OF DISARMAMENT MACHINERY AND THE FUTURE OF THE CCD. FOR OUR PART, THE U.S. DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE PRINCIPAL MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATING FORUM IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT.

WHEN THE SSOD EVALUATES THE PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT DURING THE LAST DECADE AND A HALF, THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE THE ONLY MULTILATERAL FORUM TO EMERGE AS A SUCCESSFUL, EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATING BODY. THE CCD HAS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED FIVE MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS, AS WELL AS CONDUCTED A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT SPECIAL STUDIES ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF ARMS CONTROL ISSUES BEING CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE. THIS WORK HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO GREATER WORLD-WIDE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PARTICULAR QUESTIONS BEFORE US AND THE MANY INTRICACIES

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INVOLVED IN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENERAL. THE CCD WILL ALSO APPEAR AS THE ONLY EXPERIENCED NEGOTIATING BODY WHICH HAS PROVEN IT CAN NEGOTIATE MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS WHICH PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL STABILITY WITHOUT SACRIFICING OR JEOPARDIZING THE MANY NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE STATES INVOLVED. WE WILL SHOW THAT WE HAVE LEARNED HOW TO BALANCE OUR OWN NATIONAL CONCERNS AGAINST THE BROADER CONCERNS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND HOW TO TEMPER OUR UNFORTUNATE, TRADITIONAL MISTRUST OF OTHER STATES' MOTIVES IN DISARMAMENT.

I BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THIS IS TESTIMONY TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS COMMITTEE AS A MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING BODY.

THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD MAINTAIN A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION AND THAT WE SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES COMING OUT OF THE SPECIAL SESSION WHICH WOULD INCREASE OUR EFFECTIVENESS AND FACILITATE OUR WORK. MY DELEGATION CONTINUES TO BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR REFORM FROM BOTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ALIKE SO LONG AS THOSE PROPOSALS ALLOW THE CCD TO RETAIN THOSE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH HAVE MADE IT A SUCCESSFUL AND VIABLE MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING FRUM.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I BELIEVE THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE DESERVE TO BE COMMENDED FOR THE PERSEVERANCE, COOPERATION AND DETERMINATION EXHIBITED IN PRODUCING OUR SPECIAL REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT. ALL OF US HAVE SPENT LONG HOURS AND CONSIDERABLE EFFORT IN NEGOTIATING A REPORT WHICH WILL PROVE TO BE AN ASSET BOTH TO THE SPECIAL SESSION AND THE CCD. WE HAVE PRODUCED A BALANCED REPORT WHICH WILL GIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SPECIAL SESSION A CLEAR AND ACCURATE PICTURE OF WHAT THIS COMMITTEE HAS DONE AND WHERE THE ISSUES THAT ARE NOW BEFORE IT STAND. THIS IS NOT ONLY AN ACHIEVEMENT IN WHICH EVERYONE HERE CAN TAKE PRIDE, BUT IT IS ALSO A GOOD OMEN FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION.

AS MANY OF US HEAD FOR NEW YORK AND THE SPECIAL
SESSION, LET US APPROACH OUR WORK THERE WITH THE SAME
SENSE OF COOPERATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE COMPROMISE WHICH
HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS HERE THESE PAST
TWO WEEKS. THIS COULD PROVIDE THE KEY TO ACHIEVING THE
POSITIVE RESULTS WE ALL SO EARNESTLY DESIRE. END TEXT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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